

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 01523 270001Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2582

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

CINCEUR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

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TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT: TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS; BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND MILITARY AID

1. ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26 MASS CIRCULATION GUNAYDIN
CITED "OFFICIALS" AS SAYING THAT A U.S.-TURKISH DEFENSE
AGREEMENT WILL BE SHAPED UP DURING TURKISH FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL'S
VISIT TO WASHINGTON MARCH 24-25. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIALS,
THE BASES WILL BE UNDER TURKISH ADMINISTRATION WITH AMERICAN
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN RUNNING THEM.
MOST TECHNICAL MATTERS HAVE BEEN SOLVED, LEAVING
POLITICAL QUESTIONS WHICH WILL BE ANSWERED IN WASHINGTON.
THE REPORT CONTINUED THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF "RENT"
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 01523 270001Z

AS THE BASES WILL BE UNDER TURKISH CONTROL; HOWEVER, THE

NEW AGREEMENT WILL HAVE SOME "FIGURES" NOT RELATED TO THE MILITARY AID BILL NOW PENDING IN CONGRESS. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIALS, THESE FIGURES WILL BE AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND THE U.S. SIDE IS REPORTEDLY WORKING ON A FORMULA TO MEET THE TURKISH DEMAND THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS HAVE NO POWER OVER THIS AID. IN CLOSING THE REPORT QUOTED THE OFFICIALS AS SAYING THAT: "IT IS NOW CERTAIN THAT TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS WILL SOON ENTER A STABLE AND HEALTHY STAGE."

2. ON THE MILITARY AID QUESTION MILLIYET'S SAMI KOHEN WROTE: "GENERALLY THERE ARE DOUBTS ABOUT THE FINAL DECISIONS REACHED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS SINCE ITS WAY OF FUNCTIONING, MECHANISMS AND OTHER FACTORS ARE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. THIS WAS SEEN IN TURKEY DURING THE DEBATES OVER THE ARMS EMBARGO. NOW THE TURKISH PART OF THE U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE BILL FOR 1976 HAS LED TO MISINTERPRETATION AND FAULTY COMMENTARIES IN TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION." KOHEN CONTINUED HIS ARTICLE BY GIVING AN EXPLANATION OF THE PASSAGE OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE BILL THROUGH CONGRESS. KOHEN CONCLUDED: "....THE ISSUE DOES NOT END WITH THE SENATE. THERE IS ALSO THE HOUSE (OF REPRESENTATIVES). AND THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION IS MORE POWERFUL HERE THAN IN THE SENATE....WE SHALL SOON SEE THE FINAL DECISION OF THE U.S. CONGRESS....BUT THE IMPORTANT THING TO BE CONSIDERED BY TURKEY IS NOT ONLY TO MEET HER DEFENSE NEEDS, BUT ALSO TO BE TREATED BY THE UNITED STATES AS AN EQUAL AMONG HER OTHER ALLIES. FOR THIS REASON THE FOREIGN AID BILL MAY BE A CRITERION (FOR FUTURE RELATIONS). THIS POINT MUST BE REALIZED BY CONGRESS." MACOMBER

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